

Capitalism Converts Christianity

Book Background: This book offers a theological challenge to the dominant assumptions of most Christians and churches in the twenty-first century, which simply accept the American cultural values about money. The author offers stories and mini-biographies of churches and members throughout history who have approached spending, money, and capitalism with a countercultural set of norms. In other words, the wedding of capitalism and Christianity has not always been so, and the current transformation of Christianity by capitalism must not be so now or ever! A great tool for small group study or personal use. The author is an effective preacher in the genre of Brueggemann and others who express concern about wealth's corruption on those who would be disciples of Christ.

Biography: Gray Fitzgerald has been active in lay ministry and social services for much of his life. He volunteered in Ecuador with the Peace Corps, was a lay leader in an Atlanta inner-city church, served with a nonviolent ecumenical group in wartime Nicaragua, headed up volunteer construction for an Atlanta inner-city housing program, visited inmates throughout the Georgia prison system, counseled individual and families coping with mental illness, and pastored two small United Church of Christ congregations in New Hampshire. In retirement, he continued to live in NH and was active in the UCC's peace and justice activities. In recent years, he has focused on writing a book concerned with his belief that rather than the church converting our society to the values of our faith regarding money, property, and wealth, the culture has instead converted the church to the values of the culture in those areas.

Endorsements: With impressive command of both the scriptures and church history, Gray Fitzgerald demonstrates how far we have fallen away from Christian teachings about the perils—and the distractions—of affluence. This is an important and timely book, reminding us that Jesus warned about camels negotiating the eye of a needle.

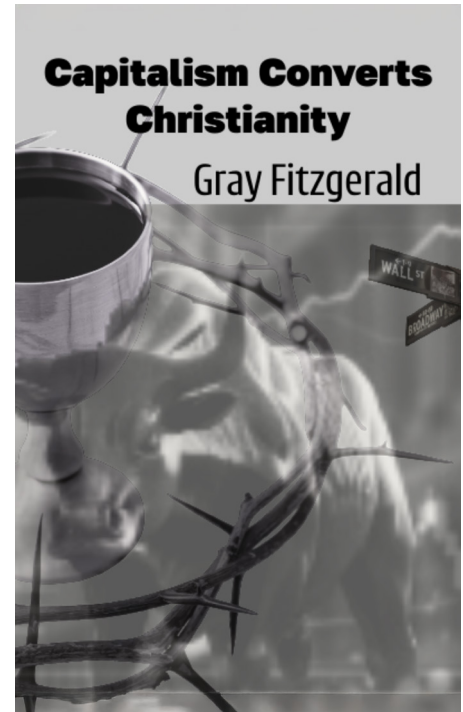
Randall Balmer

John Phillips Professor in Religion, Dartmouth College

Author of Saving Faith: How American Christianity Can Reclaim Its Prophetic Voice

Capitalism Converts Christianity is a prophetic word from a passionate prophet. Rev. Fitzgerald hammers home the point that the church and Christians are largely comfortable in our golden chains, but Fitzgerald is clear that serving the god of wealth in this society is to create chaos and violence and death, including spiritual death for us Christians to whom he is appealing. It is a work of the heart, an inspired word. He calls us back to faithfulness and to the scriptures we would rather explain away—as sources of hope and life. It will make you think and maybe even pray. He provides powerful examples and well thought out study guides. It's a book Christians should take seriously.

Chad Hale, Pastor of Georgia Avenue Church, Founder of Urban Recipe and author of Forgive Us This Day Our Daily Bread; Can a Comfortable Church Remember Jesus?



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